

**SUNDERLAND STADIUM OF LIGHT- RENEWAL OF SAFETY  
CERTIFICATE FOR SEASON 2020/2021**

**Report of the Executive Director of City Development**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee the approval of the application by Sunderland Association Football Club for the renewal of the General Safety Certificate for Season 2019/2020.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 makes provision for the review and renewal of the General Safety Certificate for the Sunderland Stadium of Light.
- 2.2** Since the grant of the last Certificate, no physical changes affecting stadium capacity have been carried out. Therefore, the approved maximum capacity of the Stadium is currently set at 48,339 (Non Segregation Match) and 48,095 (Segregated Match). Due to the Covid 19 outbreak, it is anticipated that the 2020/2021 season will be played behind closed doors for a period of time before spectators are allowed back into the venue. No timescales are currently available for the re-introduction of spectators into this type of venue. However, in order to allow spectators back into the venue and enable the club to comply with social distancing guidelines it is likely that the capacity will need to be reduced in line with guidance from the Sports Ground Safety Authority, Public Health England and Government legislation.
- 2.3** The other matter for consideration is the fee payable for the Certificate. In this regard Committee is reminded that when the Stadium opened in 1997 the fee was set at £10,000. It was then raised to £12,250 from the start of the 2000/2001 season. As there has been no additional officer involvement in the work necessary to bring this report to Committee and measures have been introduced to effect efficiencies into the process it is recommended that the fee remains at the existing level.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1** Committee is recommended:

(i) To approve the grant of a General Safety Certificate for the Sunderland Stadium of Light for the season 2020/2021 for maximum capacities of 48339 (Non Segregation Match) and 48095 (Segregated Match) on the understanding that there will need to be a reduction to the capacity to a number to be agreed with the holder of the Certificate, depending upon whether matches are played without spectators or in front of spectators with social distancing guidelines and other mitigation measures in place and authorise the Club to take all necessary precautions for the reasonable safety of spectators at these games as per Condition 4.

(ii) To authorise the Executive Director of City Development to follow such procedure and issue such notice needed to obtain compliance with any proposed restriction to the capacity.

(iii) The holder of the General Safety Certificate shall ensure that, whilst provisions of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2020 and the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (as amended) remain in force (as these may be amended, modified or replaced from time to time, whether generally or for a particular area which includes Sunderland Stadium of Light), the procedures for the phased return of live sport, as set out in Appendix 5 of the General Safety Certificate are followed.

(iv) Not to increase the fee payable for the Certificate.